DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 319 430 JC 900 277

TITLE	Transfer of Credit Study (Discussion Item).
INSTITUTION	Indiana State Commission for Higher Education, Indianapolis.
PUB DATE	9 Jun 89
NOTE	7p.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Articulation (Education); *College Transfer Students; Community Colleges; Dropout Research; Higher Education; *Intercollegiate Cooperation; Program Development; Program Implementation; Research Needs; State Legislation; State Universities; Statewide Planning; Technical Institutes; *Transfer Policy; Two Year Colleges
IDENTIFIERS	*Indiana

ABSTRACT

In response to a 1989 legislative mandate urging all Indiana state universities and Indiana Vocational Technical College (IVTC) to facilitate the transfer of credits, this paper presents a proposal for a study to determine how well the institutions are complying with the wishes of the general assembly. The paper presents background on the legislation passed to eliminate some of the difficulties often encountered by students in transferring credits to state universities. Next, the major objectives of the transfer study are identified; these include assessing the transferability of IVTC credit by examining the transfer credit success and academic performance of former IVTC students currently seeking baccalaureate degrees at four-year institutions. The next section specifies the methods and procedures for collecting data, including: (1) compilation of a transcript record database on students, course transferability, and program articulation; (2) identifying and providing information on any IVTC matriculants who failed in an attempt to transfer credit to a four-year institution; (3) collecting qualitative data through mail surveys, telephone interviews, in-person interviews, and other anecdotal information; (4) conducting an in-depth case study of the transfer credit success of students attending two universities; (5) performing an analysis of the different levels of accreditation awarded by the North Central Association and their impact on transfer of credit; and (6) preparation of a report on the two-year programs available in Indiana in comparison with other states. Finally, the remaining stages of the project are outlined and a timetable is provided. (VVC)

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ED319430

TRANSFER OF CREDIT STUDY

(Discussion Item)

June 9, 1989

Commission for Higher Education
101 West Ohio Street, Suite 550
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-1900

JC900277

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COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
Friday, June 9, 1989

DISCUSSION ITEM C: Project Design for Transfer of Credit Study

Staff Recommendation For information only

Background

The 1989 General Assembly passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 18 (SCR 18), which urges all state universities and Indiana Vocational Technical College, during 1989-90, "to enter into articulation agreements to facilitate the transfer of credits from courses successfully completed by students enrolled in Indiana Vocational Technical College's associate of science programs." In addition, the General Assembly has asked the Commission for Higher Education "to conduct a study to determine compliance with the wishes of the general assembly [and] . . . compile its findings into a report to be submitted to all of the members of the general assembly no later than December 1, 1989."

As a result of SCR 18, staff proposes a transfer of credit study that responds to the request by the General Assembly and results in information useful for meeting the needs of Indiana students.

To carry out the study, the Commission staff will– with the help of the institutions—collect and analyze transcript record data for former IVTC students who have transferred to other institutions in Indiana. As time permits, staff will also collect and analyze other relevant information, such as case study data of individual students or the different levels of accreditation awarded by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

A report presenting the findings of the study is scheduled for discussion by the Commission at its October, 1989 meeting and for action the following month—November, 1989. Following the November meeting, the report will be submitted to the General Assembly—no later than December 1, 1989.

Supporting Document *"Transfer of Credit Study: Project Design,"* Draft dated May 25, 1989

DRAFT 5-25-89

TRANSFER OF CREDIT STUDY

— Project Design —

I. Background

The Indiana General Assembly's 1988 Interim Study Committee on Post-High School Students examined the "transfer credit" difficulties of Indiana's post-secondary students. The Committee concluded that "Indiana's colleges and universities are not making enough effort to resolve these difficulties." [Final Report of the Interim Study Committee on Post-High School Students, Indiana Legislative Services Agency, November, 1988.] The testimony presented to the Committee during its 1988 hearings concerned the issue of the transfer of course credits by Indiana Vocational Technical College (IVTC) students to four-year institutions.

The Committee expressed the belief that the credit transfer problem should be addressed and encouraged "IVTC and the colleges and universities to come up with solutions."

As a result of the Committee's report, the 1989 Indiana General Assembly passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, which concludes that

- "The commission for higher education has adopted a plan for the transfer of credits from Indiana Vocational Technical College's associate of science degree programs to cooperating four year colleges and universities";
- "The general assembly encourages students to seek the highest level of education possible and, through facilitating the transfer of certain credits, seeks to eliminate significant obstacles facing these students towards that end";
- "The general assembly supports the commission for higher education's efforts to promote the transfer of credit between state universities as evidenced by the provisions of IC 20-12-17-2";
- IVTC, "since its founding in 1963, has grown to serve a significant percentage of Indiana students seeking a post-high school education";
- IVTC "students often encounter difficulty in transferring credits to state universities".

Consequently, the 1989 Indiana General Assembly resolved that

- during 1989-90 "all state universities and Indiana Vocational Technical College are urged to enter into articulation agreements to facilitate the transfer of credits from courses successfully completed by students enrolled in Indiana Vocational Technical College's associate of science programs,"
- "after July 1, 1989, the commission for higher education is asked to conduct a study to determine compliance with the wishes of the general assembly," and
- "the commission should compile its findings into a report to be submitted to all of the members of the general assembly no later than December 1, 1989."

II. MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

A. Determine the degree to which the institutions currently are complying with the wishes of the General Assembly expressed in SCR 18.

B. Assess the transferability of IVTC credits by examining the transfer credit success and academic performance of former IVTC students who currently are pursuing baccalaureate degrees at four-year institutions.

III. METHOD AND PROCEDURES

A. Data Collection and Analysis

1. TRANSCRIPT RECORD DATA

a. Students

1) By June 30, 1989, using the retention study data base, Commission staff will compile an IVTC student transfer list. Included will be members of the student cohort which started at IVTC in 1984-85 and subsequently transferred to a four-year institution in-state. (By 1987-88, some of these students had completed a four-year degree, some were persisting in a four-year program, while others had dropped out of a four-year program.)

2) Upon receiving the IVTC student transfer list, each four-year institution will be requested to provide, by July 31, 1989, copies of the transcripts for students on the list.

b. Courses

In the analysis of transcripts, Commission staff will:

1) Assess the number, type, and origin of general education courses successfully transferred to the four-year institution.

2) Identify three or four popular IVTC programs having potential for transfer of technical courses and determine from the transcripts the degree to which students have been successful in transferring courses from these programs to the four-year institution.

c. Programs

In the analysis of student transcripts, Commission staff will assess the status of program articulation, both Associate of Science (A.S.) and Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) programs, with special attention on those programs accredited by professional organizations (e.g., National League of Nursing) and/or programs whose students must pass a certification or registry examination before being employed in the field (e.g., respiratory therapy).

2. STUDENTS—QUALITATIVE DATA

a. IVTC faculty and staff will be requested to identify, where possible, and provide information about any IVTC matriculants who have failed in an attempt to transfer credit into a four-year institution and who, as a result, have not continued their education in Indiana.

b. Qualitative data will be collected as time permits from students, faculty, department chairs, other administrators, parents, other family members, or the public via:

1) mail-in questionnaires

2) telephone interviews

3) in-person interviews

4) other testimony or anecdotal information

c. Student Case Studies

Student case studies will be conducted as time permits, consisting of an in-depth analysis of one or more IVTC students' experience in attempting to transfer credits among institutions comprising Indiana's public, postsecondary system.

3. RELATED ANALYSES

a. Special Institutional Case Studies

Appended to the report will be an in-depth analysis of the transfer credit success of students attending two institutions–Vincennes University-Jasper and IUPUI- Columbus—and the experiences of these two institutions in assisting students who wish to transfer credits to a four-year institution.

b. Different Levels of NCA Accreditation

Appended to the report will be an analysis of the different levels of accreditation awarded by the North Central Association and their impact on transfer of credit.

c. Availability of Two-Year Program Opportunities in Indiana.
Appended to the report will be a description of the spectrum of two-year program opportunities in Indiana compared with those in other states.

B. Preparation of draft of report and distribution of draft to institutions for review and comment by September 15, 1989.

C. Discussion of draft of report at October 12-13, 1989, meeting of the Commission.

D. Approval of Final Report at November 10, 1989, meeting of the Commission.

E. Submission of Final Report to General Assembly by December 1, 1989.

IV. Product: FINAL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON CREDIT TRANSFER

V. STAFF TIME COMMITMENT AND CALENDAR FOR THE PROJECT

Because of a tight timeline, staff commitment is likely to consist of 1.00 FTE during the four months of data collection and analysis and report preparation (July to October, 1989).

	—Staff Work—		—Commission—	
Activity	Begin	End	Discuss	Act
PROJECT DESIGN	4/89	5/89	6/89	
DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS	7/89	9/89		
FINAL REPORT	8/89	11/89	10/89	11/89

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